

REMARKS

Claims 4-11 remain in this application. Claims 1-3 were previously canceled. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Independent claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), along with claims 5-11, as unpatentable over the Hoch et al. ('732) patent relied on previously in view of U.S. Patent 3,887,031 to Wirt, of record but newly applied. Reconsideration is requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the collective disclosures of the Hoch et al. and Wirt patents fail to suggest an acoustically absorbent lining as specified including, in combination with the other elements required, a cover plate having perforations that are confined to discrete perforation areas of the cover plate, with unperforated areas of the cover plate disposed therebetween, and with the discrete perforation areas delimited by the mouth areas of said horns as claim 4 particularly defines. As noted by the Examiner on page 2 of the Office Action, the Hoch et al. arrangement does not include any perforated cover plate as previously, and presently, required by claim 4. The Wirt permeable facing sheet 11, characterized by the Examiner as a perforated cover plate, does not include perforations therein that are confined to discrete perforation areas delimited by mouth areas of horns, with unperforated areas disposed therebetween, as claim 4 now particularly defines. The Wirt facing sheet 11, in its entirety, is permeable, and includes no unperforated areas.

For reasons discussed, it is respectfully submitted that the obviousness rejection of claim 4 is no longer applicable, and that claim 4 as set forth above is

patentable. All other claims in this application are dependent claims and should be patentable as well.

This application, as a whole, should now be in allowable condition. If there are any questions regarding this Reply or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an extension of time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323, Docket No. 056226.58024US.

Respectfully submitted,

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